

Jennie Sampson House  
Lakeville, Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-297

HABS  
MASS.

12. LAKVI

2.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer  
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

JENNIE SAMPSON HOUSE  
(Col. John Nelson House)  
Cotchpinicutt Road  
North Chatham  
Barnstable County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-297

HABS  
MASS

12-LAKVI,  
2-

ADDENDUM TO  
JENNIE SAMPSON HOUSE  
(Col. John Nelson House)  
Main Street (moved to North Chatham, MA)  
Lakeville  
Plymouth County  
Massachusetts

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

*ADDENDUM TO:*  
JENNIE SAMPSON HOUSE  
(Colonel John Nelson House)

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**Location:** Cotchpinnicut Road, North Chatham, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

**Significance:** The Jennie Sampson House represents New England building in the political era associated with Federalist politics (1776-1830). Its central hall plan and symmetrical facade connect the house with Georgian Period (1714-1837) architectural details.

**Description:** The Jennie Sampson House is a two story, frame structure covered by clapboards and shingles. It was built ca. 1790 and moved in 1937. The house has two interior end chimneys. Facing southwest, the five bay front facade is bound by corner pilasters and capped by a dentilled cornice. The windows are twelve-over-twelve on the first floor; all windows are framed with molded heads. The central entranceway is surrounded by fluted pilasters, a five light transom, and a dentilled cornice. The door is constructed of six panels. The side facades are three bays; in addition, each has a window in the attic gable end. The rear (northeast) facade is obstructed by two ells, one near the southeast end added ca. 1805 and the other ell (toward northwest) in ca. 1880.

After the move to North Chatham, the house is described as five bays by two bays with only one ell off the back. The front entrance is capped by a dentilled pediment rather than a straight cornice. However, most woodwork is original and most of the paneling retained. The North Chatham reconstruction also describes the fenestration as twelve-over-eight on the second floor, and six-over-six sash in the attic gables. The North Chatham version also has shutters, whereas the 1936 drawings omit them. Also, the two additions to the northeast facade were not replicated; instead, a wing was added to the southeast side.

**History:** Shortly after 1790, seafaring Captain Thomas Nelson built this house on Main Street, in Lakeville, Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

Between 1937-39, Wallace and Mabel Donham purchased the structure, moved it from Plymouth County, and reconstructed it in North Chatham. On their property overlooking Pleasant Bay, the Donhams re-built the house, adding Georgian Revival style details, such as the pediment over the entrance door. They did not reconstruct the front porch (not original) or the ells to the northeast of the Lakeville building. Materials from the northeast facade's additions went into the kitchen ell that the Donhams built on the southeast side. In the 1950s, Fred Holt from Princeton, New Jersey, purchased the house. Holt added a porch. At the time of the Massachusetts inventory, Vincent and Marie Appropezze owned this structure. Continual use of the structure in an essentially eighteenth-century form is remarkable, as is its survival of twentieth-century moves and additive architectural practices.

**Sources:** Historic Buildings of Massachusetts, edited by John C. Poppeliers. Scribner Historic Building Series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. Photographic catalogue of historic buildings, built primarily during the colonial and federal periods.

Inventory Form, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1991.